

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in this application. Claims 10-17 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Applicant is pleased to note the Examiner indicated that claims 21 and 26 are allowed.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Entry of this amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 as the amendments:

- (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein;
- (b) do not raise any new issues that would require further consideration and/or search as the amendments merely place the pending claims in condition for allowance by amending the claims, that were originally dependent from claim 1, to depend from allowed claim 26;
- (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of claims; and
- (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented as they are in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, and 4-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishii *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,698,036) in view of Orezyk *et al.* (US Pat. No. 5,937,323).

Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, the rejection of claim 1 under § 103(a) is rendered moot.

Claims 2 and 4-7 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 26. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2 and 4-7 are also allowable.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the § 103(a) rejection of claims 1, 2 and 4-7 be withdrawn.

Claim 3 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishii *et al.* in view of Orezyk *et al.*

Claim 3 is indirectly dependent from allowed claim 26. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 3 is also allowable and respectfully requests that the § 103(a) rejection of claim 3 be withdrawn.

Claims 8 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishii *et al.* in view of Orezyk *et al.* as applied to claims 1, 2, and 4-7 above, and further in view of Trow *et al.* (US pat. No. 5,824,607).

Claims 8 and 9 are directly or indirectly dependent from allowed claim 26.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 8 and 9 are also allowable. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the § 103(a) rejection of claims 8 and 9 be withdrawn.

Claims 18-20 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishii *et al.* in view of Orezyk *et al.* as applied to claims 1, 2 and 4-7 above, and further in view of Fujimoto *et al.* (Japanese Patent Publication 01-072526).

Claims 18-20 and 22 are dependent directly or indirectly from allowed claim 26.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 18-20 and 22 are also allowable. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the § 103(a) rejection of claims 18-20 and 22 be withdrawn.

Claims 23-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishii *et al.* in view of Orezyk *et al.* and further in view of Shirasago *et al.* (Japanese Patent Publication 02-197575) and Trow *et al.* (US. Patent No. 5,824,036).

Claims 23-25 are dependent directly or indirectly from allowed claim 26.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 23-25 are also allowable. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the § 103(a) rejection of claims 23-25 be withdrawn.

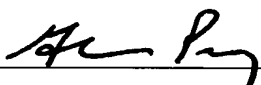
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the claims are now in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited. If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Pillsbury Winthrop LLP

By: 

Glenn J. Perry

Reg. No.: 28,458

Tel. No.: (703) 905-2161

Fax No.: (703) 905-2500

GJP/KXG

00909

P.O. BOX 10500

McLean, VA 22102

(703) 905-2000